

AUS

Quarterly Report




FAA
Aviation Safety



FY 2021

Q1

A stylized illustration in the background shows a drone with four rotors and a camera, flying over a town. The town consists of several houses of different sizes and shapes, some with multiple windows. There are also some trees and a road. The entire scene is rendered in a muted, teal-like color palette.

This document provides an overview of the Federal Aviation Administration Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office's high-level accomplishments in FY 2021, Quarter 1 (October – December 2020). When available, links to additional information are provided.

Announcements & Regulations

October 30, 2020

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces Successful Completion of Drone Pilot Program, Announces New Program Called BEYOND

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao today announced the three-year Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Pilot Program successfully concluded on Oct. 25. Eight of the nine state, local and tribal governments that participated in the program have signed new agreements with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to continue to tackle remaining UAS integration challenges.

https://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=25420

November 16, 2020

Drone Safety Week is Here!

Calling all drone enthusiasts! Join the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for virtual events during its second annual [National Drone Safety Awareness Week from Nov. 16–22, 2020](#). Learn about the latest drone technology and how the FAA is working to safely integrate drones into the National Airspace System. Throughout the week, you also will hear from drone pilots and recreational flyers about their passion and commitment to drone safety, and stakeholders will highlight important drone safety educational topics.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=96098>

November 17, 2020

FAA and NASA Complete Drone Demonstrations

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has concluded the second phase of its [Unmanned Aircraft System \(UAS\) Traffic Management Pilot Program \(UTM/UPP\)](#).

The agency ended the phase with virtual demonstrations in partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and two UAS Test Sites: the [Virginia Tech Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership](#) and the New York UAS Test Site.

The UPP results will provide a proof of concept for UTM capabilities and serve as the basis for policy considerations, standards development and the implementation of a UTM system.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=96099>



Announcements & Regulations

November 23, 2020

FAA Moving Forward to Enable Safe Integration of Drones

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) published airworthiness criteria for the proposed certification of 10 different unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) as special class aircraft. This is a crucial step to enabling more complex drone operations beyond what is allowed under the small unmanned aircraft rule (part 107), including package delivery.
<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=96138>

December 28, 2020

U.S. Department of Transportation Issues Two Much-Anticipated Drone Rules to Advance Safety and Innovation in the United States

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today announced final rules for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly known as drones. The new rules will require remote identification of drones and allow operators of small drones to fly over people and at night under certain conditions. These rules come at a time when drones represent the fastest-growing segment in the entire transportation sector – with currently over 1.7 million drone registrations and 203,000 FAA-certificated remote pilots.
https://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=25541

December 29, 2020

FAA Issues Restrictions on UAS Operations at DOD Facilities

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today announced unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) airspace restrictions over additional national security sensitive locations, effective December 30.

In cooperation with its federal partners, the FAA will restrict UAS operations in the airspace over two locations. The first facility is Rock Island Arsenal located between Davenport, Iowa and Rock Island, Illinois. The second facility is Biometric Technology Center in Clarksburg, West Virginia. Restrictions on these Department of Defense (DOD) facilities are to address concerns about drone activity over security sensitive facilities.

<https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=96379>

Speeches, Meetings, & Events

October 6, 2020

Know Before You Fly Partnership

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office continues to work with the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) and the Academy of Model Aeronautics on the *Know Before You Fly* (KBYF) education campaign. This week at XPONENTIAL, Brian Wynne from AUVSI announced that the [Consumer Technology Association \(CTA\)](#) has joined the KBYF partnership.

October 13, 2020

World ATM Congress Virtual Panel – UTM & ATM: Integrate Now or Integrate Later?

On October 13, Google Wing's Reinaldo Negron moderated a panel discussion of challenges, approaches, and considerations associated with the development and integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Traffic Management (UTM) and Aircraft Traffic Management (ATM) systems, including global harmonization and the role of government. Over 470 attendees from around the globe participated with 112 foreign officials from International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) (5) and the following regions: Europe (55), Asia-Pacific (23), Middle East (10), Africa (13), and Western Hemisphere (6). The FAA UAS Integration Office's Executive Director, Jay Merkle, joined Mark Westwood (Transport Systems Catapult, UK), Antoine Martin (Direction des Services de la Navigation, France), and Dale Sheridan (Department of Infrastructure, Australia) for the UTM/ATM integration panel.

October 19 – 23, 2020

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Panel (RPASP) 16th Meeting:

On October 19-23, the international segment of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office and other FAA line of business representatives attended the first ICAO RPAS virtual meeting, hosted by Northrop-Grumman, General Atomics and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), with participation from 32 other member States and international aviation organizations. In addition to the continued review and development of UAS-related Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), participants approved working paper proposals on job card changes and the acceptance of the Mode A 7400 code as an indication of a lost command-and-control link state. The ICAO Secretariat also held an email election for a new Panel Chairperson and a majority of the 33 members elected Ron van de Leijgraaf of The Kingdom of the Netherlands on the first ballot.

Speeches, Meetings, & Events

October 22, 2020

Drone Advisory Committee (DAC)

On October 22, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office facilitated the second virtual DAC meeting. During the meeting, DAC Task Group 8 presented their recommendations on Safety Culture and the FAA shared their responses to DAC Task Group recommendations on UAS Traffic Management (UTM) and Facility Maps. The FAA then presented the DAC with a new tasking, Low Altitude Remote Identification (ID) Operations, and discussed the creation of a Standing Operations and Technology Subcommittee, which was approved by the DAC.

October 22, 2020

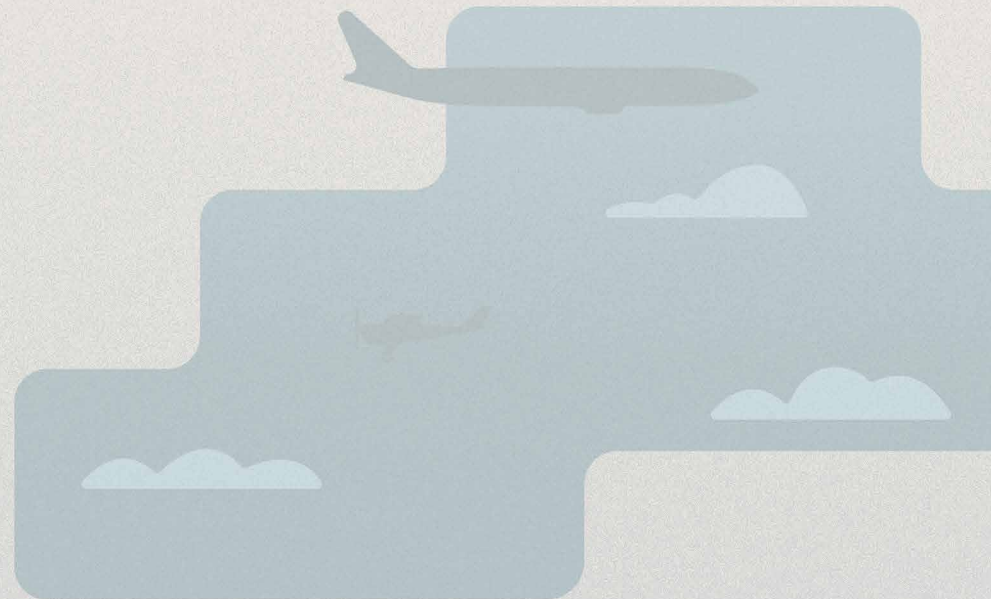
FAA UAS Integration Research Planning Roundtable

On October 22, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office hosted the UAS Integration Research Planning Roundtable. DAC updates and a discussion of the FAA UAS Center of Excellence – the Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE) program management review and the Science and Research Panel workshop followed. Other topics included a UAS Integration Research Plan status update, FY23 requirements formulation, UAS international events, and a UAS technical weather exchange.

October 26 & 30, 2020

Joint Authorities for Rulemaking on Unmanned Systems (JARUS) Plenary Meetings

On October 26 and 30, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office and other FAA line of business representatives attended the first JARUS virtual plenary meetings. The members approved many changes to the JARUS Terms of Reference, including a new programmatic structure, new work tasks, and revisions to the workflow process to include the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in the coordination and review of JARUS work. The spring 2021 plenary will take place virtually on April 26–30.



Speeches, Meetings, & Events

November, 2020

Know Before You Fly (KBYF) International Operations Website

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office's international and front office teams are working to gather information from Civil Aviation Organizations about operating UAS and drone operating rules in their countries. The team worked with the KBYF partners to post the initial information received from Germany, Poland, Serbia, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom on the educational campaign's website: <http://knowbeforeyoufly.org/flying-internationally>. The page will be updated as information is received from additional countries.

November 3 – 5, 2020

ASTM F38 Fall 2020 Conference

The ASTM F38 UAS Standards Development Organization held their virtual fall 2020 conference from November 3-5. The event was attended by industry, academia, and government and resulted in further development of standards to help safely integrate UAS into the national airspace system. Sessions included regulator updates, Detect and Avoid (DAA) Test Methods, Parachutes, Fuel Cells, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Traffic Management (UTM) Service, Complex Functions, and Terminology. Members of the FAA UAS Integration Office presented on the FAA priorities and strategies for ASTM F38.

November 17 – 18, 2020

FAA and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) UAS Webinar

On November 17-18, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office participated in the first UAS webinar for ICAO's regional offices in Mexico City and Lima. The Office made opening remarks to the approximately 250 participants on the first and second days, and the team, along with other FAA lines of business, presented the FAA's UAS integration strategy and actions taken to date. Brazil, Canada, and Honduras also shared their experiences with integrating UAS in their respective airspace systems.

Speeches, Meetings, & Events

November 18, 2020

FAA International UAS Integration Research Roundtable

On November 18, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office hosted a virtual FAA International UAS Integration Research Roundtable. International partners from Australia, Brazil, Israel, Singapore, Spain, South Korea, Transport Canada, and the United Kingdom participated, as did representatives from other FAA lines of business. The meeting focused on outcomes and challenges identified during the FAA International UAS Integration Research Roundtable held in September and how to best utilize the outcomes and challenges for future roundtable meetings in an effort to harmonize UAS integration activities.

December, 2020

UAS Collegiate Training Initiative (CTI)

Sixty-two schools have signed memoranda of understanding with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The CTI team is expanding the reach of the program to include Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium for Tribal Colleges and Universities to ensure that the pipeline of the UAS workforce is diverse.

December 7, 2020

Brazil Air Navigation System Provider (DECEA) Collaboration

On December 7, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Office participated in a meeting with Brazil's DECEA to exchange best practices and discuss closer collaboration on several topics including UAS traffic management (UTM) decentralized environment, UAS detection methods in an airport environment, UAS countermeasures, FAA regulatory framework, and standard operations for small UAS, in addition to other NextGen related topics. The meeting also included FAA colleagues from FAA's Office of International Aviation, NextGen, the Office of Security and Hazardous Materials, and the Flight Standards Service. Participants agreed to reconvene in early 2021.



Select Online Notices

Do you have questions about drone operations?

Contact the FAA UAS Support Center as you continue to improve your knowledge and skills! Our experts are ready to help you. bit.ly/3543NFU #TipTuesday #FAADroneGuy
<https://www.facebook.com/103683877826050/posts/223620919165678/>

Drones can be fun, but that toy is an aircraft! Remember to:

1. Register your drone at <https://t.co/pVJq6RigtZ>
2. Learn how to be a safe drone pilot
3. Follow @FAADroneZone for more drone safety tips from Buzzy the DroneHappy flying!
<https://twitter.com/FAANews/status/1341383442290913280>

Did Santa bring you a drone for Christmas?

Congrats, you're a pilot now! Buzzy the Drone has tips to help you fly safely. Find all the details you need at
<https://twitter.com/FAADroneZone/status/1343981891981078532>

